

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 and 23-24 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, the specification is amended, claims 21 and 22 are canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein, claims 1 and 11 are amended, and claims 23-24 are added. No new matter is added.

Applicants acknowledge the indication that claims 21 and 22 contain allowable subject matter and will be allowed once the 35 U.S.C. §112 rejection is overcome. New independent claims 23-24 correspond to canceled dependent claims 21-22 rewritten into independent form and to conform the claims to the disclosure. No new matter is added. As indicated in the Office Action, these features distinguish over the applied art.

I. Formal Matters

The specification is amended at paragraph [0011] to include the proper abbreviation for "term frequency/inverse document frequency." Support for the change can be found in paragraph [0011]. No new matter is added.

Additionally, the specification is amended at paragraphs [0038] - [0040] for clarity and for the correction of minor typographical errors to properly distinguish a first matrix (topology matrix S) from a second matrix (weighted content matrix W). Support for these changes can be found in paragraphs [0009] - [0011] and from the equations in paragraphs [0039]-[0040]. For example, it is apparent that equations (1) and (2) do not include a matrix W. Instead it is clear that the resultant A is multiplied by the weighted content matrix W. No new matter is added. Approval for the specification changes is respectfully requested.

The Office Action objects to claims 21 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. The allowable subject matter of claim 21 has been rewritten into independent claim 23. The allowable subject matter of dependent claim 22 has been rewritten into independent claim 24.

Applicants revise claims 23-24 for clarity to address the Examiner's concerns. In particular, Applicants have replaced "the weighted content matrix" with "a matrix S," which is a topology matrix. As discussed above, the equation is supported by the specification. Additionally, claims 23 and 24 are amended to provide antecedent support and consistent terminology throughout the claims. No new matter is added. Claims 23-24 are concise and definite. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

II. Pending Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 2, 4, 6-12, 14 and 16-20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,029,195 to Herz in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,835,905 to Pirolli. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claims 1 and 11 are amended for clarity. These claims provide a method and system that identifies user types, which may be helpful for Web designers to adapt to user preferences and usages. The method analyzes information relative to a collection of connected documents visited by the user, which documents contain links to other documents. Each document in the collection can be reached via a threshold number of traversals from an initial document. The traversal path from an initial document defines a user path of connected documents.

For each significant user path multi-modal user information need and information is determined on at least two of content of the document, connections or links to other documents, inlinks from and outlinks to other documents in the collection for each document contained in the significant user path. This content portion feature information and user information need form multi-modal user path information. This multi-modal user path information for each significant user path is clustered based on a selected type, a selected similarity, and a measure of similarity. User types are determined based on the clustered

information. This is supported, for example, by paragraphs [0009] - [0033], particularly paragraphs [0010], [0018], and [0033]. No new matter is added.

Neither Herz nor Pirolli teach or suggest such features. Accordingly, independent claims 1 and 11 and the claims dependent therefrom define over the applied art and are allowable. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 3 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Herz in view of Pirolli, further in view of prior art "Mining Longest Repeating Subsequences to Predict World Wide Web Surfing" by James Pitkow and Peter Pirolli. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Pitkow article fails to overcome the deficiencies of Herz and Pirolli with respect to independent claims 1 and 11. Thus, claims 3 and 13 are allowable for their dependence on allowable base claims 1 and 11 and for the additional features recited therein. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

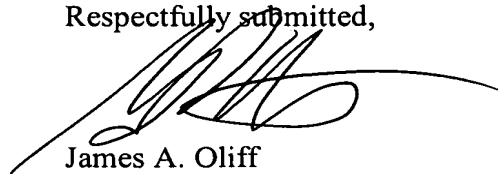
The Office Action rejects claims 5 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Herz in view of Pirolli, further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,878,384 to Johnson. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Johnson fails to overcome the deficiencies of Herz and Pirolli with respect to independent claims 1 and 11. Therefore, claims 5 and 15 are allowable for their dependence on allowable base claims 1 and 11 and for the additional features recited therein. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-20 and 23-24 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:SPC/jnm

Attachment:

Request for Continued Examination
Petition for Extension of Time
Amendment Transmittal

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